MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know why without considering the question of making adequate provision for fixing up this machinery it was ordered ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : When the order was placed two years ago it was thought that the existing building might be suitable, but when the machinery actually arrived, it was found that that building was not quite suitable and that another building was required.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : What is the approximate cost of the new building that is required for fixing up the new machinery ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : It has not been estimated.

MR PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from Government why they have not taken steps for at least to estimate the cost of a new building that is required for fixing up this machinery which was got down two years ago ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : If at present we are to go in for a new building it will be very costly. As it is, we are getting on without it. The minting of the blanks already got down is almost completed and we are not now going in for any more blanks. Therefore there is no immediate need for working this machinery.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : So, am I to take it that it is not on account of want of building that the machinery was not fixed up but on account of the want of necessity for it ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : On account of both.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the Government are prepared to consider the question of selling this machinery to some who will buy it at a price which will bring a profit to the Government.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : Sir, the suggestion requires mature consideration. We have first to ascertain what the machine will fetch in the market before we can decide whether it will sell at a profit or not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : May I know why it was got down if it was not thought necessary ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : It was thought necessary at the time it was got down.

Development Department and Plywood.

219. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Development Department has begun the manufacture of plywood ;

(*b*) the amount of plywood manufactured so far ;

(*c*) expenditure incurred for such manufacture ; and

(*d*) the quantity of plywood sold and the total amount realised therefrom?

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RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 15,500 sq. ft.

(*c*) It is not in public interests to furnish these details in the case of commercial ventures.

(*d*) The whole output is for sale to the K. D. H. P. Co. Munnar, at 2 annas per sq. ft.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know what were the varieties of timber supplied by the Forest Department to the Development Department for the manufacture of ply wood and the rates at which they were supplied?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Only one kind of timber has been supplied and that is ministica. The rate is working charges plus seigniorage rates.

PRESIDENT : At present negotiations are pending for the starting of a ply wood factory. As honourable members know, ply wood for making teak chests and for other purposes was, till very recently, got from Scandinavia or the Balkans. The whole of India was supplied either from Scandinavia or from the Balkans. Recently steps have been taken in Assam to do some ply wood business. It struck this Government that it was a great pity that with so much material here, it should not be manufactured in this State also. On account of the war even those who have entered into contracts for the supply of ply wood find it difficult to fulfil those contracts. In these circumstances Government are endeavouring to start a ply wood factory here almost immediately ; and any disclosure of cost price or rates or profits would make it very difficult for Government to conduct what may be called successful negotiations.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know the name of the wood?

PRESIDENT : Ministica.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know the Malayalam equivalent for it?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Chora pine.

Village road from 4th mile of the Kottar-Dharmapuram road.

220. *MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether the Government on 3-5-1113 received a petition from Sivasubramonia Nadar, Narayanaperumal Nadar and others of Puttoor in Dharmapuram pakuthi in Agastisvaram taluk, that the village road branching from 4th mile of the Kottar—Dharmapuram should be metalled ;

(*b*) the reasons stated in the petitions for metalling the road ;

(*c*) whether the Chief Engineer or the Executive Engineer, Nagercoil, had visited the village road in 1115 or 1116 ;

(*d*) the amount necessary for metalling the road, which is one and a half miles long ; and

(*e*) the action taken thereon?

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